



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Maryland's Social Services Agency



MEDIA RELEASE

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CENTRAL MARYLAND COUNTIES CELEBRATE SOCIAL WORK MONTH
BY NAMING SOCIAL WORKERS OF THE YEAR

Anne Arundel, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties
Applaud Child Welfare and Adult Services Workers

BALTIMORE – March is National Social Work Appreciation Month and local departments of social services in each jurisdiction are honoring workers who represent the best in the profession. They are:

Patricia Smith, a Child Welfare Investigations worker for the **Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services (DSS)** is a 2009 honoree.
She is joined by **Carol Klein-Goldstein**, a clinical social worker for the **Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services**, and
Catherine White, an Adult Services worker at the **Prince George's County Department of Social Services**.

Social workers and caseworkers perform a wide range of essential tasks including determining the safety of children, identifying new foster parents, helping facilitate adoption services and ensuring the well being of elderly residents who live independently. They touch the lives of thousands of vulnerable children and adults in Maryland and across the country.

“Our social workers are dedicated professionals that strive daily to make a positive difference in the lives of others,” said Department of Human Resources Secretary Brenda Donald. “Now, more than ever, they are the vital link between Maryland’s most vulnerable population and an array of support services that this population needs.” Last year, over 600,000 Marylanders received one or more of the services provided by the Department of Human Resources and its 24 local Departments of Social Services across the state.

Anne Arundel, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties have selected a worker of the year that best represents the “*purpose and possibilities*” in social work – this year’s national social work appreciation month theme. Supervisors, co-workers and peers selected from workers that exhibit the best qualities of the profession.

- Martin O'Malley, Governor
- Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
- Brenda Donald, Secretary

Patricia Smith is a Child Welfare Investigation worker with the Anne Arundel Department of Social Service. She has been in the unit since October 2007. During her short time in the unit, Ms. Smith has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help her customers. Her compassion for others is demonstrated in her performance both on and off the job – having volunteered to help families in New Orleans shortly after Hurricane Katrina, and most recently volunteering to man an emergency shelter during the Presidential Inauguration.

Carol Klein-Goldstein provides excellent clinical case management services to her clients. She is supportive of new social workers and helps them to learn their job. Carol painstakingly shares important educational materials with community providers, thereby enabling them to better serve sexual abuse victims and their families. She has a proven track record for successful outcomes for the citizens of Montgomery County.

Cathy White is an extraordinary individual and a great contributor to the Prince George's County DSS work place. She began in 2008, to serve in the capacity of CHESSIE coordinator which is a major statewide computer system. In that capacity she resolved problems, trained staff from around the state and also performed trouble shooting. She was the lead staff person to the Prince George's County Continuous Quality Improvement Council and the lead staff person for the agency's accreditation process.

Each of the honorees has been invited to attend an appreciation luncheon to be held on Monday, March 30, 2009. Lt. Governor Anthony Brown will bring remarks at the event.

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The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the state's social service provider. The agency collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to: provide foster care, adoption and protective services to children; collect and distribute child support payments; and provide temporary cash, food stamps and medical assistance to families. It also administers programs for homeless persons, refugees, migrant workers, victims of crime and women who are displaced, battered or assaulted. Last year, DHR served 638,000 people in need. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is Maryland's fourth largest state agency.